

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate South Central Community Action Partnership for making extensive positive impacts on the lives of low-income families in South-Central Idaho and on the occasion of their organization's 50th anniversary.

South Central Community Action Partnership is a highly valued local, charitable, non-profit corporation in Idaho's 2nd Congressional District. Although it began in the 1960s to oversee area Head Start programs, in fifty years it has changed thousands of lives.

Since 1967, SCCAP has developed important Idaho programs such as the Family Development and Families in Transition Program, the Valley House Coalition, a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families, the Twin Falls-based Weatherization Program, and the Boy's & Girl's Club of Magic Valley. Of special note, the Partnership has led efforts to build seniors' centers in the cities of Twin Falls, Buhl, Burley, Jerome, and Kimberly.

In addition, many of SCCAP's projects have been so successful that they have become independent organizations themselves or even parts of Idaho government programs. These include their Regional Housing Council (now the Region IV Housing Coalition), their Youth Challenge Project (which evolved into the Jerome Youth Center), their Family Planning Project (which became part of the District Health Department), their summer Migrant Head Start Programs (now the Idaho Migrant Council), and their invaluable Guardian ad Litem Program (now the Fifth Judicial CASA Guardian ad Litem).

As a small example of their impact, Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 years alone, SCCAP has assisted an average of more than 6,800 families and represented more than 20,000 individuals, helping with weatherization, veteran services, food, transportation, affordable housing, and many other valuable fields in our Idaho communities.

The SCCAP's hardworking administrators have consistently earned the trust of the people of Idaho, from Betty L. Wooten's leadership of the organization in 1967, all the way to Ken J. Robinette's and Joe Herring's leadership today.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank South Central Community Action Partnership for their service and commitment to the residents of South-Central Idaho.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) as

it celebrates 40 years of organizing the people of Oakland into powerful leaders for social change. Founded on May 14, 1977, OCO has united people across diverse communities in order to create positive and permanent change in Oakland neighborhoods, schools, and throughout the city. After forty years of work, OCO continues to be at the forefront of coalition building and organizing to bring about systemic change and improve the quality of life for all families.

Since its founding, OCO has consistently exhibited their steadfast support for underserved communities and tackled the obstacles that impede individuals from achieving a greater living standard. During its first 10 years, OCO created Housing Rehab programs to renovate 400 once-vacant houses, developed over 100 affordable housing units for first time homeowners, helped establish the Port of Oakland's minority hiring program, and aided in the implementation of Oakland's "Hire Oakland First Program," which is still in existence today.

In 1985, OCO transitioned from their traditional neighborhood-organizing model to a congregation-based model of organizing, which brought together congregations of all religious denominations. Under its new model, OCO launched a campaign to address Oakland's drug epidemic during the 1980s. Thanks to OCO, the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and the State of California adopted new enforcement, treatment, and prevention measures to address the drug epidemic. In addition, the White House formally recognized OCO for its anti-drug campaign.

In the 1990s, OCO shifted their focus to the root causes of poverty. As a result, they brought a new grocery store to West Oakland, secured \$6.6 million in new street lighting, implemented truancy reductions program, and formed Aviation High School, a pilot school-to-work transition program that prepared high school student for jobs in the transportation field.

At the beginning of 2000, OCO researched and developed one of the only community-driven school reform efforts in the United States, which resulted in the creations of dozens of new schools. Since then, OCO has also been dedicated to defending the rights of immigrant community by organizing legal support forums for thousands of immigrant families seeking citizenship, pushing for family-oriented immigration reform legislation, and connecting at-risk immigrants with emergency deportation defense services.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone. I thank Oakland Community Organizations for all that they do. I wish them continued success in training and organizing future generations of leaders to address the challenges facing the City of Oakland and its neighboring communities.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT SEAN SARGEANT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Sean Sargeant on

the occasion of his retirement from the Marine Corps after 30 years of dedicated service to our country.

Master Sergeant Sargeant's time with the United States Marine Corps first began in 1988. As a trained infantryman, security guard and civil affairs specialist, he served in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan, and was also part of the last crew to serve on the Battleship *New Jersey* from World War II.

In 1996, Master Sergeant Sargeant transitioned from active duty to the Marine Corps Reserve, where he began his career as a probation officer with the county. Working with a wide range of clients and families, Master Sergeant Sargeant's efforts with inter-agency coordination and focused mentoring has changed many lives by helping them re-integrate into the community.

Alongside his work with at risk adults and youth, Master Sergeant Sargeant continued to remain heavily involved with organizations that served veterans. Serving as an Operations Chief for Wounded Warriors, Master Sergeant Sargeant coordinated care for injured Marines and Sailors at Camp Pendleton and managed transitions for veteran families. He also served as a Civil Affairs Operations Chief with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, assisting with G9 operations. In his community, Master Sergeant Sargeant co-organized the very first Orange County Stand Down event, providing temporary relief to homeless veterans and offering medical and hygienic services.

MSgt Sargeant's sense of duty is truly commendable, and he is an example to us all of what it means to be a public servant.

Mr. Speaker and Members, please join me in congratulating Master Sergeant Sargeant on his retirement, and honoring him for his many contributions to the Marine Corps and to our nation. As he embarks on this new chapter, I wish Master Sergeant Sargeant all the best and thank him for his patriotism.

HONORING MR. CELESTINO CORDOVA

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Celestino Cordova for his service in the 65th Infantry Regiment, the "Borinqueneers." The 65th Infantry Regiment was the largest and longest-standing segregated Latino military unit in our country's history, and the Borinqueneers service in the face of discrimination led Congress to award these veterans the well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

The Borinqueneers trace their history to 1898, when Congress authorized the creation of a military unit in Puerto Rico. For more than a century, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment served honorably in our Armed Forces, displaying valor and distinction in World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. In fact, the Borinqueneers are credited with firing the first American shots in the First World War after stopping a German supply ship from leaving San Juan Bay in 1915.

Throughout both World Wars, the Borinqueneers defended the Panama Canal Zone, and some members of the regiment

served in North Africa and Central Europe during World War II. The regiment became a key force during the Korean war after distinguishing itself during the Operation PORTREX military exercise. Over 2,700 Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts during the Korean war, and some Borinqueneers led the last regimental bayonet assault in U.S. military history.

Despite their honorable service by thousands, the Borinqueneers faced segregation and regular discrimination in the Armed Forces. Our country owes these veterans our thanks, and we must remember the story of the Borinqueneers as role models for national service.

Mr. Speaker, Celestino Cordova served our country in the 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean war despite the danger and discrimination that the Borinqueneers faced. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.